

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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UNCLAS TOKYO 11392

ERDA FOR A.S. FRIEDMAN, J. BLASEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: VISIT US SOLAR EXPERTS TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 10441

1. MITI SOLAR ENERGY REP KOBAYASHI VISITED SCICOUNS TO PRESENT SUGGESTED ITINERARY FOR VISIT OF US SOLAR EXPERTS. FROM MITI VIEWPOINT, BEST TIME FOR TRIP WOULD BE MID-OCTOBER. ABOUT SEVEN WORKING DAYS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COVER ALL STITES LISTED BELOW, ALTHOUGH SOME STREAMLINING MAY BE POSSIBLE BY CAREFUL PLANNING OR BY DELTION OF VISITS TO SITES OF LESSER IMPORTNCE OR SITES ALREADY VISITED AUGUST 1974 BY ENERGY R&D DELEGATION.

2. SUGGESTED ITINERARY:

FIRST DAY: A. TOKYO. BRIEFING ON SUNSHINE PROJECT

MANAGEMENT; MITI COUNCILLOR KO TAKEDA

B. TOKYO. SOLAR THERMAL POWER GENERATION;

TAKASHI HORIGOME, CHIEF, ENERGY TRANSPORT

SECTION. PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER GENERATION;

YASUO TARUI, HEAD, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

SECTION. BOTH AT ELECTROTECHNICAL LABORATORY.

SECOND DAY: TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO NAGOYA. SOLAR FURNACE RESEARCH;

TETSUO NGOUCHI, CHIEF, SOLAR ESEARCH LAB,

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO NARA.

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THIRD DAY: PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER GENERATION (NEW TYPE SOLAR CELL); KENJIRO KIMURA, PROJECT MANAGER, SHARP CORP. TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO HIROSHIMA.

FOURTH DAY: SOLAR THERMAL POWER GENERATION; SEIGO ARAMAKI, HEAD MANAGER, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES. RETURN BY AIR TO TOKYO.

FIFTH DAY: A. PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER GENERATION (SILICON RIBBON CRYSTAL); HAJIME MAEDA, RESEARCH FELLOW, ELECTRON DEVICES LAB, TOSHIBA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.

B. SOLAR HOUSE PLANNING AND DESIGN; SHIRO TANABE, DEPUTY MANAGER, TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, OHBAYASHIGUMI (PART OF SANYO CORP.)

SIXTH DAY: TRAVEL TO TOCHIGI. SOLAR ENERGY COLLECTOR; YUICHIRO ASANO, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, OYAMA PLANT, SHOWA ALUMINUM. RETURN TO TOKYO.

2. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT US EXPERTS MEET AGAIN WITH MITI OFFICIALS FOLLOWING SITE VISITS TO REVIEW THEIR FINDINGS AND TO DISCUSS TO EXTENT AUTHORIZED PREPARATION OF AGENCY LEVEL AGREEMENT. THIS WOULD CONSUME PART OF SEVENTH WORKING DAY. EMBASSY NOTES THAT ALL FACILITIES LISTED ABOVE ARE UNDER MITI DIRECTION OR SPONSORSHIP. KOBAYASHI WAS QUESTIONED AS TO ANY WORK GOING ON IN RELATED SOLAR AREAS SUCH AS WIND ENERGY, OCEAN THERMAL GRADIENTS, TIDAL ENERGY. HE PROFESSED IGNORANCE.

FYI: DEPT. WILL RECALL WH AT RECENT MRECC MEETING IN TOKYO, GOJ OCEAN RESOURCES OFFICIALS BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN OCEAN ENERGY RESEARCH AND US SIDE TOOK POSITION THAT THIS SHOULD BE UNDER ENERGY R&D AGREEMENT, NOT UJNR. END FYI.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT. AND ERDA VIEWS ON PROPOSED ITINERARY; ADVICE ON WHETHER AGENCY LEVEL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED DURING VISIT OF EXPERTS; ADVICE ON WHETHER AGENCIES OTHER THAN MITI SHOULD BE CONTACTED WITH VIEW OF EXTENDING TRIP, BEARING IN MIND INTERAGENCY RIVALRIES IN JAPAN.

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4. FYI: ELECTROTECHNICAL LAB., MITI, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE 8/13 TO DISPLAY SOLAR THERMAL POWER GENERATION PILOT PLANT IN OPERATION. RATED AT A LITTLE LESS THAN 1 KWE, UNIT CONSISTS OF LINEAR-PARABOLIC REFLECTING COLLECTOR 3 METES LONG WITH 4.5 RPT 4.5 SQ. METER COLLECTION AREA. GLASS TUBE AT OPTICAL FOCUS CONTAINS COPPER PIPE ABSORPTION BODY WITH SELECTIVE SURFACE TO REDUCE EMISSIVITY. TEMPERATURE ON SURFACE IS 350 RPT 350 DEG CENTIGRADE.

INNER WALL OF GLASS TUBE COATED WITH THIN FILM OF OXIDIZED TIN
TO ACT AS THERMAL BARRIER. COLLECTOR AUTOMATICALLY TRACKS SUN.
COMPRESSED AIR IS PRIMARY WORKING FLUID, WHICH IS PUMPED TO
HEAT STORAGE TANK WHERE HEAT IS TRANSFERRED TO ALUMINA BALLS.
STORED THERMAL ENERGY IS THEN PERIODICALLY REMOVED BY WATER
TO FORM STEAM FOR DRIVING TURBINE. OVERALL EFFICIENCY
(INCIDENT SOLAR ENERGY TO ELECTRICAL ENERGY) SAID TO BE
17-18 PER CENT.
HODGSON

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